



Chesterfield County  
Department of Building Inspection  
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[www.chesterfield.gov/bi](http://www.chesterfield.gov/bi)

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## **CODES - RESIDENTIAL**

All counties and cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia use the 2006 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), which went into effect on May 1, 2008.

The VUSBC references the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) as the official residential building code for Virginia. In turn, the 2006 IRC references the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC) for all electrical issues.

Until May 1, 2009 any person submitting residential plans in Virginia may opt to submit plans under the 2003 USBC (and the 2003 IRC) or 2006 USBC (or the 2006 IRC); after that date, all plans must be submitted under the 2006 USBC and the 2006 IRC.

Several important points should be noted:

1. These codes are the minimum allowable standards, and the homeowner or contractor may build to higher performance standards.
2. While all municipalities abide by the same codes, the requirements in one jurisdiction may be different from those requirements in another municipality (example: the wind conditions at the beach are different than here in the Richmond area, and should therefore mandate different wall bracing).

A copy of the residential portion of the VUSBC is called the *2006 Virginia Construction Code* and it can be downloaded from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development web page at <http://www.vbcoa.org/2006%20USBC/2006%20Virginia%20Construction%20Code.pdf>

The state of Virginia has coordinated with the International code Council (ICC) to create a combined book with both the 2006 Virginia Construction Code changes with the 2006 IRC and call it the **2006 Virginia Residential Code (VRC)**. The VRC can be purchased from the International Code Council by phone at (888) 786-4452. Notice: There may be more current years available of the IRC, so be sure to specify the 2006 VRC edition.

